

CLAIMS

1. In a ratchetable open-ended wrench which has (1) first and second jaws, (2) a base area connecting the jaws, (3) a retractable jaw member slidable within a slot in the second jaw and projecting toward the base area, and (4) a first cover plate on a first side of the second jaw to limit the lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot, the improvement wherein the cover plate is welded to the second jaw such that the cover plate forms a load-bearing structural member within the second jaw.
2. The wrench of claim 1 wherein the cover plate is welded to the second jaw on both sides of the slot.
3. The wrench of claim 2 wherein the welds are projection-welds.
4. The wrench of claim 2 further including a second cover plate welded to a second side of the second jaw such that the cover plate forms a load-bearing structural member within the second jaw, the second cover plate limiting lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot.
5. The wrench of claim 2 wherein the cover plate is recessed in the second jaw such that the outer surface of the cover plate is substantially flush with the lateral surface of the second jaw.
6. The wrench of claim 1 wherein the retractable jaw member has an outer corner having a radius of at least 3% of the flat-to-flat dimension of the rotatable element for which the wrench is sized.
7. The wrench of claim 1 further including a full-compression oblong tapered coil spring for biasing the retractable jaw member toward the base area.

8. The wrench of claim 1 wherein the second jaw is shorter than the first jaw, whereby torque-related stresses within the material around the slot are reduced.

5 9. In a ratchetable open-ended wrench which has (1) first and second jaws, (2) a base area connecting the jaws, (3) a retractable jaw member slidable within a slot in the second jaw and projecting toward the base area, and (4) a first cover plate on a first side of the second jaw to limit the lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot, the improvement wherein the cover plate is projection-welded to the second jaw such that the cover plate forms a load-bearing structural member within the
10 second jaw.

10. The wrench of claim 9 further including a second cover plate projection-welded to a second side of the second jaw such that the cover plate forms a load-bearing structural member within the second jaw, the second cover plate limiting
15 lateral movement of the retractable jaw member within the slot.

11. In a tapered coil spring, the improvement wherein each turn of the coil is oblong.